



WEEKLY CHRISTIAN FOCUS



THE PARABLE OF THE SOWER.
AS YOU HAVE PROBABLY
NEVER HEARD IT BEFORE!

PREPARING FOR THE FUTURE PART X (TEN!)

MATTHEW 13

God bless you. Many warm greetings and prayers!

Like many of you, I have been many times fascinated by the **'Parable of the Sower'** that Jesus taught. In fact this parable is completely found in Matthew 13:1–23, Mark 4:1–20, and Luke 8:4–15

In this edition, and using the Amplified Version, I am using Matthew chapter 13, as he is the first Gospel! The other versions in Mark and Luke are tremendous and I highly recommend you to compare them. I am genuinely not favouring any against another! Praise the Lord.

Let's read the text first, and then get very deep into what this means for us today. Please make sure you pray first, as this is truly and very, very shocking!

Matthew 13 That same day Jesus went out of the house and was sitting beside the sea.

- ▶ 2 But such great crowds gathered about Him that He got into a boat and remained sitting there, while all the throng stood on the shore.
- ▶ 3 And He told them many things in parables (stories by way of illustration and comparison), saying, A sower

went out to sow.

- ▶ 4 And as he sowed, some seeds fell by the roadside, and the birds came and ate them up.
- ▶ 5 Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they had not much soil; and at once they sprang up, because they had no depth of soil.
- ▶ 6 But when the sun rose, they were scorched, and because they had no root, they dried up and withered away.
- ▶ 7 Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them out.
- ▶ 8 Other seeds fell on good soil, and yielded grain—some a hundred times as much as was sown, some sixty times as much, and some thirty.
- ▶ 9 He who has ears [to hear], let him be listening and let him consider and perceive and comprehend by hearing.
- ▶ 10 Then the disciples came to Him and said, Why do You speak to them in parables?
- ▶ 11 And He replied to them, To you it has been given to know the secrets and mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it has not been given.
- ▶ 12 For whoever has [spiritual knowledge], to him will more be given and he will

be furnished richly so that he will have abundance; but from him who has not, even what he has will be taken away.

- ▶ 13 This is the reason that I speak to them in parables: because having the power of seeing, they do not see; and having the power of hearing, they do not hear, nor do they grasp and understand.
- ▶ 14 In them indeed is the process of fulfilment of the prophecy of Isaiah, which says: You shall indeed hear and hear but never grasp and understand; and you shall indeed look and look but never see and perceive.
- ▶ 15 For this nation's heart has grown gross (fat and dull), and their ears heavy and difficult of hearing, and their eyes they have tightly closed, lest they see and perceive with their eyes, and hear and comprehend the sense with their ears, and grasp and understand with their heart, and turn and I should heal them.
- ▶ 16 But blessed (happy, fortunate, and to be envied) are your eyes because they do see, and your ears because they do hear.
- ▶ 17 Truly I tell you, many prophets and righteous men [men who were upright and in right standing with God] yearned to see what you see, and did not see it, and to hear what you hear, and did not hear it.

- ▶ 18 Listen then to the [meaning of the] parable of the sower:
- ▶ 19 While anyone is hearing the Word of the kingdom and does not grasp and comprehend it, the evil one comes and snatches away what was sown in his heart. This is what was sown along the roadside.
- ▶ 20 As for what was sown on thin (rocky) soil, this is he who hears the Word and at once welcomes and accepts it with joy;
- ▶ 21 Yet it has no real root in him, but is temporary (inconstant, lasts but a little while); and when affliction or trouble or persecution comes on account of the Word, at once he is caused to stumble [he is repelled and begins to distrust and desert Him Whom he ought to trust and obey] and he falls away.
- ▶ 22 As for what was sown among thorns, this is he who hears the Word, but the cares of the world and the pleasure and delight and glamour and deceitfulness of riches choke and suffocate the Word, and it yields no fruit.
- ▶ 23 As for what was sown on good soil, this is he who hears the Word and grasps and comprehends it; he indeed bears fruit and yields in one case a hundred times as much as was sown, in another sixty times as much, and in another thirty.

What the Lord showed me this week about this

parable. He may also show you many great things!

The parable of the sower basically and mainly consists of three

main parts: the actual parable and then Jesus' explanation of it to His disciples only, and also an explanation from Jesus as to why His disciples could hear this and others would not understand it!

In verses one and two we find Jesus in a boat; he had left a house, which is usually presumed to be Simon Peter's house, and due to the huge crowd he remained in a boat, either because there were just too many people and also probably because his voice would 'carry' louder and longer over the water to the multitude.

I have been impressed in recent months by how busy Jesus Christ actually was. He was enormously busy and if you read the account of the day before this in Matthew 12, you see he had already put in a huge shift of ministry. Jesus knew His time was at hand or imminent and He knew the number of days it was going to be. Jesus Christ was not a time waster. He wasn't checking His emails, or doing the YouTube circuit, or seeing how many 'likes' He got somewhere or another. He was on a totally different level and calls us to be the same, or at least the best we can to follow that. May the Lord help us all!

In the same manner, He gets right down to business and begins these heavy parables.

A sower went out to sow, he sowed seeds that fell into four different kinds of ground.



The first seeds (verse 4) fell on the wayside, or side of the road. Easy pickings for the birds who enjoyed them immensely.

Some other seeds (v 5 and 6) went or fell into rocky ground, no earth, and so no root and the sun scorched them, they consequently WITHERED AWAY. Very sad.

The third type of seeds in verse 7 'fell among thorns'. The thorns eventually choked the life out of them! Death by choking!

The good news was that finally some seeds were like this: (verse 8) 'Other seeds fell on good soil, and yielded grain—some a hundred times as much as was sown, some sixty times as much, and some thirty.'

At this point His disciples are more than intrigued and asked Jesus why He always spoke to the crowds in parables.

Good question.

I love all of the Lord's reply, He starts out with this

11 And He replied to them, to you it has been given to know the secrets and mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it has not been given.

In other words, the real secrets and mysteries of God's Kingdom would only be shared with those who had security clearance from God, IT HAS BEEN GIVEN to the disciples, but to the earthlings, IT HAS NOT BEEN GIVEN!

This tells us that God has protocols of security, which only certain people can attain to or qualify for. You have to be following the Lord and have been chosen by Him to initially qualify for at least some of them. He will reveal His Word to you and make you understand 'stuff'

that others cannot believe, or to whom such wisdom has not been 'given'.

We should pray for God to give us these secrets and first of all seek Him to be the best disciples we



can be according to the standards of His Own Word, and not our own standards.

If we begin to have this kind of spiritual knowledge, then more will be added to us! Verses 12 and 13. And those who thought they knew stuff, will even lose what they thought they knew and be left with NO wisdom from God. Like many today. 'The darkness comprehended it not'. John 1:5

THE NATION'S HEART! Verses 14 and 15

I realised yesterday when I began to study and write this, that Jesus regards nations as having a unified of sorts 'Heart'. That is they all share the same degenerative culture and worship and follow that, and this makes their hearts 'fat and dull'. They are unresponsive to the messages of God. And in that nation here was fulfilled Isaiah's famous prophecy!

I wonder, if you consider it or pray about it, you could ask the Lord, what kind of heart does the nation I am living in or part of, have? It doesn't mean everyone has a dull

heart, as there will always be God's sheep who are receptive, but like here, it will be the majority of the people. The nation had 'tightly closed its eyes'! On purpose. Don't shine that light on me!

In verses 16 and 17 Jesus encourages and acknowledges His own disciples receptivity and openness to the Light and Message. They were even in a greater position than many prophets and righteous men who has passed through the earth before them!

18 Listen then to the [meaning of the] parable of the sower:

Finally, but after all this valuable explanation Jesus gets to the meaning of this mighty parable, which of course He only tells His Own disciples.

The seed by the road-side/wayside. Verse 19

The devil is active to steal away the Word of God, while people are even in the process of hearing it. A LOT OF PEOPLE get the opportunity to hear the Word of God, but the hearts of some people do not comprehend it right then and there. At that significant juncture, the devil comes in and 'snatches away' what was in the process of being sown in their hearts.

The seed on rocky soil verse 20 and 21

People can hear Jesus' message and initially accept it with tremendous joy. That's all good news, however life for the Lord is a lot more than our first reaction. Our hearts have to have a deep root, if not, then when troubles and offences and persecution come we 'fall away'!

When affliction or trouble or persecution comes on account of

the Word, we fall or some people fall.

The seed which fell into thorns. Verse 22.

This is my favourite terrible part!



And really the most dangerous for all of us I think as it is constantly active, and continuously a threat.

Let's repeat it here: 22 As for what was sown among thorns, this is he who hears the Word, but the cares of the world and the pleasure and delight and glamour and deceitfulness of riches choke and suffocate the Word, and it yields no fruit.

Awesome and amazing, and as mentioned before this is true deep wisdom and top level security clearance to know this particular information about the 'thorns'!

Thorns are no one's friend, as far as I know anyway! Many of us have had a thorn in our flesh at some point in our lives, Roses have thorns. Beauty lives above and beyond hurts and pain.

However, the thorns in this parable represent things that seem fascinating to many people. They don't look like thorns at all really:

They are:

- The cares of the world
- And the pleasure
- And delight
- And glamour
- And deceitfulness of riches

What do they all do, these thorns? They CHOKe and suffocate the Word of God. Its an ongoing and not immediate process.

Cares and worries of life, ambitions, bills, goals, requirements, debt, no debt, etc.

The people who are the Glitterati, the Glamourati, those who abnormally love pleasure and focus their eyes and tiny brains on all that the devil presents in front of them. The fashionarati. The illuminati, the famousarati, the wanting-to-be famousarati, and the whole crowd of the 'Arati's'. They all are choked eventually so that God's Word will NEVER bear fruit in their hearts and minds. They go into the grave and are ushered into the next world with no fruit for God, all because they were overcome by the thorns! Which grow slowly.

I know for myself this is a highly dangerous and ever present danger and I have seen many people fall in to the thorns who once were on a good road for Jesus.

Earnest and heartfelt prayers to God on a regular and daily basis will save us from the piercings and chokings and suffocating temptations and thrills and spills of this world, with which we are always surrounded!

And perhaps above all things to me, I feel is 'The deceitfulness of riches'. What does this really mean?



Riches themselves have a deceiving effect on our spirits and souls, because they put us in a stronger connection with the here and now, and with the temporary world we are living in.

They offer so much to us, security, safety, pride and a feeling of being like everyone else who is also deceived. We can all be deceived together, and thus feel we belong and are happy! Its a glorious thing this feeling, (!) but actually it is deceiving us daily if we pay attention to the things that will make us more admired and sought after by other people. We pass this deceitfulness on to our next generations in the form of almost anything which does not conform to the Great Commission Jesus gave us.

As a great Christian missionary mother from England once said somewhere in Africa, and a very long time ago when writing to some of her relatives about one of her sons:

'Oh please pray for Bertie, he has accepted the job as Ambassador for Britain, when he could have been an ambassador for the Lord'. She was so disappointed.

Well, don't get me wrong we can use our wealth or earthly appointments, but the deceitfulness of it all will still remain strong.

I believe it would do us a lot of good to ask God, 'what are the thorns and what the deceitfulness of riches in my life are?' Surely He will show you.

[Faith Grows In Good Ground – Part 3 – PASTOR DARRYL BAKER \(pastor baker.blog\)](#)

The seed on good soil!

23 As for what was sown on good soil, this is he who hears the Word and grasps and comprehends it; he

indeed bears fruit and yields in one case a hundred times as much as was sown, in another sixty times as much, and in another thirty.

It seems to me that God is leaving the choice with us. We can bear as much fruit for Him as we allow of His Word to be fully resting and moving in our hearts. Our job is to grasp the Word of God (no thorns there!) and comprehend it deeply and we will **automatically** then bear fruit. As the verse below and many other scriptures tell us:

1 Timothy 4:15 Meditate upon these things; give thyself wholly to them; that thy profiting may appear to all.

16 Take heed unto thyself, and unto the doctrine; continue in them: for in doing this thou shalt both save thyself, and them that hear thee.

So there it is, or at least a part of the meaning, surely the Lord will show you even more.

Why not take this coming week to pray about this powerful parable and ask God to help us be and continue to be the good ground ready for the Seed of His Word.

Life is not in the sower, although they are important people, but Life is in the seed. God wants your heart to be fertile for that Seed. Amen?

**Love in Him
Jerry for the WCF Team**

And almost finally, why have we included this in our series of preparing for the future? If we have our hearts right and ready for His Seeds, we will be more than ready for any eventuality this temporary

world can throw at us.

In the world you shall have tribulation, but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world.

John 16:33

KEEPING IT SIMPLE:

- SEED BY THE ROADSIDE
THE BIRDS CAME!
- SEED ON ROCKY SOIL
THE SUN CAME!
- SEED AMONG THORNS
THE THORNS CAME!
- SEED ON THE GOOD
SOIL GOD CAME!



[The Spurgeon Library | The Parable of the Sower](#) probably cannot get better than this sermon.

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IN THE BEGINNING WAS THE WORD, AND THE WORD WAS
WITH GOD AND THE WORD WAS GOD
JOHN1:1

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